

the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, as a member of the Governor's Brownfield Taskforce, and as founder of the New Jersey Watershed Alliance, Dr. Sinclair has shown that his fervor for business does not come at the expense of a healthy environment. His efforts stand as a guiding example that a coexisting relationship between businesses and the environment can genuinely exist without adversely affecting either entity.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly pleased that the New Jersey Business and Industry Association and the New Jersey Policy Research Organization have chosen to elevate Dr. Jim Sinclair to such prestigious positions within their respective organizations. Therefore, I ask my fellow members of Congress to join me today in honoring and recognizing a man who rises up from among his peers and stands firm for the protection of our natural heritage.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast rollcall votes 241 and 242 on June 13, 2005 because I was attending to an unavoidable personal matter. I was also unable to cast rollcall votes 288 through 321 on June 21, 2005 through June 24, 2005 because I was attending to a family emergency. Had I been present I would have cast the following votes:

On rollcall No. 241, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 242, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 288, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 289, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 290, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 291, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 292, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 293, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 294, I would have voted no.

On rollcall No. 295, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 296, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 297, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 298, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 299, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 300, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 301, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 302, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 303, I would have voted no.

On rollcall No. 304, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 305, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 306, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 307, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 308, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 309, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 310, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 311, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 312, I would have voted no.

On rollcall No. 313, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 314, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 315, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 316, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 317, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 318, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 319, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 320, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 321, I would have voted no.

TWO PUERTO RICAN WOMEN NOMINATED FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am speaking today in strong support of the two Nobel Peace Prize candidates from Vieques, Puerto Rico. Nilda Medina Diaz and Maria Reinat Pumajero are members of the Woman's Alliance of Vieques, an organization committed to the fight against poverty, human rights violations, and international injustices that occur in over 150 countries around the world.

I would like to acknowledge Nilda Medina Diaz for her successful efforts for the demilitarization of Vieques. Nilda has also co-founded the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, which later led to the ending of the weapons training and military exercises that occurred on this U.S. Marine base prior to 2003, after 60 years of military usage. She also continues to play a large role in Puerto Rico's environmental clean up effort as a member of Restoration Advisory Board of Vieques.

In addition, I would also like to recognize Maria Reinat-Pumarejo. She also played a large role in the closing of Vieques as a military base. In addition, her grassroots organizing of working class women against racism and sexism has led her to co-found the Institute for Latino Empowerment. As Maria saw the need to expand her efforts across a larger base, she collaborated with the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, an organization that serves Caucasians and also people of color. In addition, Maria works closely with the East Asia-U.S.-Puerto Rico Women's Network against Militarism, in which she is both furthering her efforts to alleviate racial tensions, and uniting against a common cause in the United States and abroad.

I have had the opportunity to visit the Island of Vieques twice and have seen both the damage that multiple years of bombing have done to that island and the tremendous recreation and economic possibilities that lie ahead for the people of Vieques. As the original author of the base legislation, which led to the withdrawal of the U.S. Navy presence from Vieques, I know how important the advocacy of the Puerto Rican Community in Puerto Rico, on Vieques and on the mainland of the U.S.A. and in these Halls of Congress was to achieving our successful shared goal. Ms. Diaz and Ms. Pumarejo are just two of the hundreds of committed community advocates, elected officials, and friends from throughout the world who worked hard and dedicated themselves to improving the future of Vieques and the Puerto Rican people.

The women mentioned above are two of 1,000 women nominated this year for the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize that have been engaged in creating better communities, alleviating poverty, and working for a common goal. Their efforts have reflected upon many of the Puerto Rican and Latino communities in my district as a source of power and hopefulness for the future.

I commend these women for their Nobel Peace Prize nominations, their commitment to empowering women across borders, and for their dedication to the closing of the Vieques Marine Base.

REMEMBERING ROGER R. WEIHER

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 28, 2005, our community lost a great jurist, advocate and true friend with the passing of Roger R. Weiher. At 79 years young, he unexpectedly passed from this life.

An Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, Roger Weiher was raised in North Toledo and graduated from Woodward High School. He received undergraduate degrees from Western Michigan and John Carroll Universities, and earned his law degree back home at the University of Toledo. In addition to his law practice, Roger also served as Lucas County deputy clerk of courts and Ohio assistant attorney general. He began his judicial tenure with an appointment to Toledo Municipal Court in 1989 and was later elected to the position. Following a decade of service, Judge Weiher continued as a visiting judge even after retirement. His even-tempered, soft and patient nature made him a good judge and, as one of his colleagues noted, "He understood people. That's what made him so effective on that court." Expecting to remain active following mandatory retirement from visiting judge duties at age 80, Judge Weiher planned next month to begin training as a mediator. His wife explained, "He wasn't going to put his feet up."

Roger was not only a fine public servant and respected attorney, but together with his first wife Evelyn Weiher, with whom he raised their son Tommy, he was well known in the theatre world. Evelyn was an actress, director, and teacher in the theatre, and when they settled back in Toledo the two established a theatre company in the 1960s which staged productions in the former State Theatre. Later productions were staged at Adrian's Crosswell Opera House. Evelyn passed away following illness in 1983, yet Roger's passion for performing continued. Just last month he participated in his 49th consecutive Gridiron show, an annual event of the Toledo Junior Bar Association.

His wife Norma brought new joy into his life, and they were married in 1985. Always at his side, Norma was his true and faithful companion. She was with him even as he breathed his last from this life and entered into the next. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Norma, Thomas, stepdaughter Linda, brother Donald, and grandchildren. May the brightly burning light that was Roger Weiher in life remain in their hearts, giving them comfort for the journey ahead, and offering them peace in remembering the man who was husband, father, brother, grandpa, mentor, friend, and a man imbued with the spirit of justice borne of his faith and the rule of law.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for a series of rollcall votes occurring on the evening of June 29, 2005 and during the day on June 30, 2005. During this